Claims

1. An implantable device, including: a cuff positioned to contact the outer surface of a tubular body carrying blood; and at least one sensor which measures blood pressure encapsulated within said cuff, wherein said cuff is integrally formed within a cannula.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said device does not occlude or adversely affect the flow of blood or blood pressure within a patient's circulatory system.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein said device includes at least two sensors and said sensors are aligned axially in respect to said tubular body.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said device includes at least two sensors and said sensors are aligned radially in respect to said tubular body.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said device is connected to a controller that determines the pumping state of said heart from changes in said pressure.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein said cuff comprises: silicone, velour or Dacron™.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said device cooperates with a blood pump.

8. The device of claim 8, wherein said blood pressure is used in a feed back mechanism to control the pumping speed of said blood pump, said feed back mechanism including a controller.

9. The device of claim 9, wherein said controller adjusts pumping speed to minimise under-pumping and over-pumping by the implantable blood pump.